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## **Sen. Stamas and fellow republicans target identity theft**

*Bill package would ease victims' frustration, aid prosecutions*

**LANSING** — Senate Republicans announced today that protecting Michigan consumers from the rapidly growing crime of identity theft is a top priority.

Caucus members introduced a package of bills aimed at making it easier for identity-theft victims to restore their good credit histories as well as giving prosecutors and police the tools to nab ID thieves.

“Residents throughout our state have a right not to worry about someone stealing their identity and what it will do to their credit,” said state Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland. “This package will help victims restore their reputations while assisting law enforcement officials in catching these criminals.”

Senate Bill 796, sponsored by Stamas, would involve the Michigan State Police in distinguishing victims of identity theft and identity-theft criminals.

Earlier this week, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard firsthand how identity theft has ruined victims' credit ratings and created havoc in their lives. Victims told senators how they had their personal information taken and used to open fraudulent loan, credit card and cell-phone accounts.

Committee members also heard from law enforcement officials and prosecutors on what can be done to combat this growing crime.

A Judiciary Committee hearing is planned for the package at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28 in Room 210 of the Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan St., Lansing.

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